

the guardian weekly

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Level » Lower intermediate Style » Lesson plan



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: advanced and lower intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly/. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

Ferrari to launch its first hybrid car

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Instructions

Lesson focus: reading; comparatives and superlatives
Materials: materials sheet, article, dictionaries
Time: 55 minutes

1 Start this car-themed lesson with a quiz. Direct students to the six car logos on page 3. As a race, students in pairs note down the carmakers. Feedback. Encourage speculation eg *It's definitely an Audi logo* etc. **7 mins**

Answers: Logo 1 Toyota 2 Volkswagen 3 Hyundai 4 Audi 5 Renault 6 Honda

2 Hand out student task (page 2). Direct students to the photo of the Ferrari badge, elicit "Ferrari". Ask how they compare to other makes of car from the quiz. Elicit comparatives/superlatives: *Ferraris are (much) more powerful than ...* and revise the rules for these. Establish the intensifiers: *a lot/much/slightly*. **9 mins**

3 Draw up a spidergram with "cars" in the centre and four lines to the categories: types of car, people who make cars, things in a car, cars and the environment. Students copy. Write up the words: hybrid car, petrol engine, car emissions, car producer, fuel, carbon dioxide, electric motor, greenhouse gases, carmaker, electric vehicle, climate change, manufacturer, firm, sports car, limited series model. As a class, write some example words on the spidergram. Then students in pairs with dictionaries write the other words in the correct places. Monitor. Class feedback. **10 mins**

4 Direct students to task 1 and go through the questions. Direct them to the article. Students read and write yes (Y) or no (N). They correct any untrue information.

Class feedback. **12 mins**

- a** [] The Ferrari firm first began in 1947.
- b** [] The hybrid Enzo will be more expensive than the ordinary version.
- c** [] The new car will be the most powerful Ferrari model.
- d** [] In Europe, average car emissions are 95g per km.
- e** [] The new Enzo will emit very low amounts of CO2.
- f** [] New cars emit slightly less CO2 than 15 years ago.
- g** [] At present, 1% of new cars are hybrids.

Answers: a N b Y c Y d N e N f N g Y

5 Ask students if the hybrid Ferrari is a good idea. Why?/ Why not? Elicit discussion. Encourage comparatives/superlatives: eg *It's a lot more expensive than other hybrid cars but it isn't greener.* **5 mins**

6 The US government website <http://1.usa.gov/JxPJ9s> provides comparative information about other hybrid cars. Print this off and give it to students. Go through the categories. Ask: Which car is the most expensive to fill up? Students quickly read and find the answer: The Nissan. Students prepare three similar questions. Monitor. Students ask partners. **12 mins**

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Student task



1 Read the article and and write yes (Y) or no (N) next to these statements. Correct any untrue information.

a The Ferrari firm first began in 1947.

b The hybrid Enzo will be more expensive than the ordinary version.

c The new car will be the most powerful Ferrari model.

d In Europe, average car emissions are 95g per km.

e The new Enzo will emit very low amounts of CO₂.

f New cars emit slightly less CO₂ than 15 years ago.

g At present, 1% of new cars are hybrids.

Article: Ferrari to launch its first hybrid car

- 1 The luxury car producer Ferrari is joining a growing number of green carmakers by launching its first-ever hybrid vehicle.
- 2 The Italian firm, founded by Enzo Ferrari in the 1920s, is an elite name in motoring. It first produced sports cars in 1947 and has since created some of the world's most famous luxury vehicles.
- 3 One of its most glamorous products, the Enzo, will be made in a hybrid version at the end of this year, the company has announced.
- 4 "At the end of the year, we'll be unveiling the new Enzo, a limited series model and our first-ever hybrid car," said Ferrari's chairman, Luca di Montezemolo.
- 5 The price of the hybrid car will probably be more than the \$840,000 cost of the Enzo. It will be the carmaker's most powerful model, combining two electric motors with a 12-cylinder petrol engine, which will give a 40% cut in fuel use.
- 6 Average new car emissions in Europe are 138g of carbon dioxide per km, but the EU has set a target of 95g per km by 2020. However, there are exceptions for specialist carmakers such as Ferrari. Even if the Enzo cuts its carbon dioxide emissions in half, it will be one of the bigger greenhouse gas emitters on the roads. The current Enzo emits 545g/km.
- 7 In general, cars are becoming greener. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers in the UK, a new car now emits 28% less carbon dioxide than one bought 15 years ago.
- 8 Nevertheless, car emissions need to be cut for decades to come. The UK government's Committee on Climate Change (CCC) thinks that UK road and rail transport emissions must be reduced by 91% to meet its targets by 2050. Cars account for 60% of transport emissions.
- 9 Along the way to meeting those targets, the CCC expects the UK market for electric vehicles and hybrids to grow from 1% of sales currently to 16% by 2020.

Original article by Dan Milmo, rewritten by Janet Hardy-Gould

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Logo 1 _____



Logo 2 _____



Logo 3 _____



Logo 4 _____



Logo 5 _____



Logo 6 _____